

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-52 cancelled.

- 53. (Currently amended) A toxin protein fragment of ~~according to~~ SEQ ID NO:2, comprising a deletion consisting of one or more amino acid residues from the N-terminal 76 amino acids.
- 54. (Previously presented) A toxin protein of claim 53, wherein the deletion comprises the removal of at least a single amino acid residue from the N-terminal 76 amino acids.
- 55. (Previously presented) A toxin protein of claim 53, in which the deletion comprises the N-terminal 15 amino acids.
- 56. (Previously presented) A toxin protein of claim 53, in which the deletion comprises the N-terminal 48 amino acids.
- 57. (Previously presented) A toxin protein of claim 53, in which the deletion comprises the N-terminal 57 amino acids.
- 58. (Previously presented) A toxin protein of claim 53, in which the deletion comprises the N-terminal 76 amino acids.

59. (Currently amended) A toxin protein fragment of SEQ ID NO:2, comprising a deletion of the N-terminal 47 amino acids, and further comprising a substitution of threonine to aspartic acid at amino acid residue 49.
60. (Currently amended) A modified toxin protein of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~claim 37~~, comprising a substitution of methionine to isoleucine at amino acid residue 48.